

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No.: 10/809,846
Attorney Docket No.: Q80537

REMARKS

Claims 9-27 are all the claims currently pending in the application, including new claims 15-27. No new matter has been added.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner rejected claims 9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by US Patent 6,410,869 McNutt (hereinafter McNutt). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection because McNutt fails to disclose each and every element of Applicant's claims.

The present invention is aimed at avoiding impedance mismatch. A memory bus system generally includes signal lines that terminate at memory slots. These memory slots may have a memory module inserted into them or may be empty. The signal lines that terminate at memory slots into which memory modules have been inserted experience the impedance associated with that memory module. Signal lines that terminate at empty slots do not face a similar impedance. The present invention is designed to avoid impedance mismatch at the termination of the signal lines whether or not a memory module is inserted into the memory slots.

In order to accomplish this, the present invention provides an electric load and switch contacts at the termination of the signal lines. If a memory module is inserted into the memory slots, the signal lines are coupled to the memory module. If the memory module is empty the signal lines are connected to the electric load through the switch contacts. The termination of the signal lines switches between the electric load and memory module, depending upon whether a memory module is present or not in the switch contacts. In either instance the signal lines

experience a similar impedance, whether it be from the memory module or from the electric load.

McNutt discloses neither a memory module nor an electric load nor switch contacts of a switch connection as claimed. Further it discloses a fundamentally different switch connection from the switch connection of switch contacts of the present invention. Whereas in the present invention the signal lines terminate at either a memory module or an electric load, the McNutt signal lines always terminate at the same place. In McNutt a device may be inserted into the signal lines. Although this alters the path of the signal lines, the signal lines still travel to the same termination point, whether they do so directly or through a device. McNutt does not disclose switching between two termination points. Since McNutt fails to disclose at least the switching feature of the present invention, the rejection of claim 9 based on McNutt is improper.

With regards to claim 11, McNutt fails to disclose a switch that alternately insulates a first connector pin from a second connector pin and provides an electrical contact between the first and second connector pins. The McNutt signal travels from the first connectors (14 and 15) and first bus interface (12) to the second connectors (16 and 17) second bus interface (18). As discussed above, the signal travels on a direct path or through a device, but always reaches the second bus interface (18). The McNutt connectors do not alternate between being insulated from one another and being in electrical contact with one another, as is recited in claim 11. A signal always travels between the connectors and the connectors never are in contact. Since McNutt fails to recite each and every element of claim 11, the rejection of claim 11 based upon McNutt is also improper.

New Claims

New claims 15-27 have been added to further define the scope of the present invention. Claims 15-17 are dependent on claim 9, claims 18-20 are dependent on claim 11, claims 21 and 24 are new independent claims, claims 22 and 23 are based upon new independent claim 21 and claims 25-27 are based on new independent claim 24. Support for the new claims can be found throughout the Specification including from page 11, line 21 to page 12, line 5. New claims 24-27 are supported at least in Figs. 3 and 4 and on page 10, line 7 to page 11, line 10. These claims are distinguishable over the cited references at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to claims 9 and 11.

New claim 21 is also allowable at least for the reasons above described with respect to claims 9 and 11. New claims 22 and 23 are dependent upon claim 21 and are thus also allowable. New claims 15-20 are allowable at least in light of the traversal of claims 9 and 11. New claims 24-27 go to the design of the connector of the present invention, and particularly to the movement of a resilient first contact part. The McNutt contact is not similar to the contact of the present invention.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant respectfully thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 13 and 14. Applicant also respectfully thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 10 and 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims. Applicant has rewritten claims 10 and 12 in independent form and so they should now be allowable.

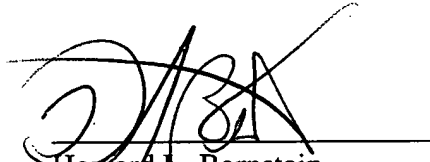
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Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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